

THE SPRING DUCK SHOOTING

The Editor, Brewer and Lawyer in the Sandhill Marshes.

BLACKSTONE GETS A CRACK AT A WOLF

Arrival of the Ball Players—Preliminary Work at the Park—All Showing Up Well—The Spring Schedule of Games.

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now fly in his wake, as with increasing certainty he lengthened out his long, gam...

There has been a power of wolves 'bout here this winter," observed Mackey, "and they have killed lots of good cattle."

"You don't tell me that they kill cattle, but you squawk as if you know just as well as he as he killed his dog."

"Yes, indeed they will, or horses, either. They are as powerful as they are sneaking, and seem to kill stock from sheer murder—instinct and nothing else, as they act down at a trifle out of the neck or hams, and seldom return to the same carcass twice."

"How do you get at it, Mackey, do they run them down?"

"Hardly ever. They get close down to the ground on their bellies and crawl slowly across an unimproved piece of ground, and when close enough give a run and a jump and hamstring the poor animal as deftly as a skilled surgeon could with his knife. They generally turn and bite after one has hamstringed his victim, the other flies in at his throat. It takes them but a little time to get the beast down and kill him."

"Has there been any killed round here this winter?"

"Yes, several. Gus Rudolph—Gus is the trapper Sandy wrote up a year ago in his 'Home of the Canavaback' series in the—"

"—an Englishman named John Wright has killed several this winter, and coyotes, badger, skunk, rat and other vermin until you can't see 'em. Gus and John have been shooting down in our country all winter. They've got a shack near Hamilton's and are shooting for the market now. And, I say, Sandy, turning round in the wagon and saying 'don't you fall to the wagon and you 'bout killed Old Limpy'?"

"Old Limpy—whose Old Limpy?" I interposed.

"Well, sir, Old Limpy is, or was, rather, the biggest gray wolf in all these hills—he's been here for years and years, and there is no trapper or ranchman within a hundred miles who has not regarded weeks and months of his life as being spent in the chase, got him cornered over on the Blue and gave him his quietus. He was a powerful fellow, and his hide, grizzly white, was a but, and he reckoned it is worth some money to anybody who wants an extra good specimen. Gus and John got \$25 bounty for every wolf they kill, and generally the skinner chip in and make up quite a decent reward on the side. But Gus'll tell you all about it when you go over to his place this afternoon."

It was now afternoon, and we had crossed the last ridge of hills since we entered the valley of Goose lake, where in March, '94, the trapper made the biggest and best canavaback ever made in the state of Nebraska.

The rays of the sun had been growing warmer and warmer, and the gentle winds blowing from the west had become fresh and brisk, and as we advanced, the greenish-brown here and there, alone remained, when we finally struck the top of the valley above mentioned, the beautiful had almost entirely disappeared from the earth. White spots, blotting the landscape, and the brown here and there, alone remained, when we finally struck the top of the valley above mentioned, the beautiful had almost entirely disappeared from the earth.

"He'll be gone a week or two, and he'll be especially catered to at the Charles street grounds, everything being done for his convenience and pleasure that the management can do."

The new uniforms arrived Friday. They come from Sweden, in Chicago, and are made of two or three hundred yards, and handed out a big order. I was told that would reach there before I could get close enough for a good shot. So I stopped and let him have it at long range. He halted instantly at the report of my rifle, and his beautiful bushy tail, bristling out to its fullest dimensions, was hoisted over his striped back. I didn't go any farther, but turning, made my way back to the city, where I was in an atmosphere that bore no suspicion to new money, but the delicate fragrance of red deer.

Of all about skunks. Of all four-bearing animals, save the muskrat, they abound in the lake region of the sandhills the most plentiful, and are a considerable source of revenue to the trapper.

The skunk is a pretty animal in his glossy garment of black and white, the proportion of which colors varies with the age and condition of the individual. The young are all little white fur; in others broad streaks extend the whole length of the body. The adult animal measures some five or twenty inches in length, and a big water moccasin can make inroads against the ranchman's henry—when they are provided with both one—and create a deal of trouble. They will remain for months and years without giving any symptom of their presence by the emission of the offensive fluid for which they are famous. The odor alone proves how ludicrous is the belief that the urine of this animal is the source of its disgusting odor. In this was so, the whole rendered almost uninhabitable to creatures of every other species.

Another quarter of a mile and Goose lake, like a white sea, lay before us. A flow of pinnacles arose with their plaintive piping from the off nearer arm of ice, as we approached, and bore over the sandhills to the south.

"There's the little island," exclaimed the brewer, enthusiastically, pointing out to the small island in the middle of the lake, and flags in the lower central portion of the island, from which I killed my first canavaback—

"And had your little bon-fire?" curiously quizzed the brewer, with a wink at me.

"The very same—but I say, Sandy, will you ever forget the first morning we pulled up over the first ridge of hills, and the whole landscape blending with the dawning colors of the bridal garments of another season?"

"I got back from my spring hunt a week ago, after spending ten most enjoyable days at Hamilton's cozy hospitality in the Deer country sandhills. The brewer, Mackey and Will Simeral were with me, and while the shooting was the poorest ever known here, we printed by every moment spent there, and returned to the city, and the next morning, nearly as well satisfied as if we had brought a carload of ducks along with us instead of a few dozen of the same. The trip was a most enjoyable one."

Some Famous References. The following appeared in last week's issue of Richard K. Fox's Police Gazette, accompanied with the portraits of a number of the men mentioned in the article.

professional marquis of Queensberry rules, for professional contests, are inadequate and different referees put different interpretations upon them.

In New York Johnny Eckhardt easily leads the list of competent referees, which is, however, limited. Frank Stevenson, Jimmy Carroll and Charley White make fair referees. Tim Hurst, the present official of the Seaside Athletic club, is an unprejudiced, fair-minded man and a capable referee. A. J. Mitchell, who has refereed the Corbett-Mitchell fight in Jacksonville a year ago.

Chicago called a boast of some excellent referees. Among them are Jimmy Colville, Spencer T. Williams, Doc O'Connell and John Keilher. Colville has had an experience with pugilists over twenty years and is a referee after the style of Al Smith.

Philadelphia has some acceptable men, who have had much experience as referees. The most noted are Jimmy McHale, Jack Sugar, Billy McLean and Jack McDonald. In Chicago George Siler is the star, and he is a good one, and fair enough to decide any one's money on a matter of fact.

Orleans fills the bill as a referee of finish bouts. In the far west we have Hank Seely, Prof. John Barnes, good old Jimmy Griswold of the Omaha Athletic club, and a man of Denver. This last quartet are very efficient and know all the points of the game.

Any boxer who can't turn in a pair, and after one has hamstringed his victim, the other flies in at his throat. It takes them but a little time to get the beast down and kill him.

Canavaback. The old Omaha graduate, Jimmie Canavan, the old Omaha graduate, has played his last game with the Cincinnati team. From now on Jimmie will again be a member of Manager Watkins' Indianapolis aggregation. Jimmie arrived here night before last from his home in Massachusetts, says Harry Weldon of the Cincinnati Enquirer. He was accompanied by his wife, and she was a very nice-looking woman.

Clint Briles has returned from Red Oak, Ia., where he went to look after that grand fellow, Alamo, who is now in the hands of Morris Jones and receiving his regular job daily. Morris Jones will assume the training of Alamo, and he will be as good as he comes cast with his California string, and will take him through the grand circuit.

W. A. Paxton, in a few days, will transport his string of horses to Galeburg, Ill., for preparation. Billy will undoubtedly have one of the very best stable hands to be found in the whole country this season. They will make the entire big circuit, clear down to Nashville. Ab Fuller will do Mr. Paxton's driving.

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There are a lot of old-time crackers in Little Nick's aggregation, and in respect to batting, playing and fire running it is by long odds the best of the bunch. The greatest weakness will be on the rubber slab, but they claim that this deficiency will be made up by the first championship game is called. It is the team that beat the old league gang out will be, anyway, one or two, three.

In a little over three weeks the eight teams will be started off on what promises to be the greatest championship race in all the minor leagues. The pace from the start will be a merry one, and Omaha will make a mad effort to set it. There are no selling places in the field, and it will be a lively scamper from the first clang of the gong.

The Omahogs should be particularly strong in the last week of the season. They have Slagle and Miles the team has added a third of "good things" in this line. These three with Ulrich, Walsh and Whalen, every one of whom is a first-class player, will make a diagram, make the crowd one that is likely to give opposing catchers a whole lot of worry.

Grasshopper Ulrich and Cholly Knickerbocker Shaffer floated in from Philadelphia Thursday evening took out like a brace of on-top speed and names men, Slagle in dove-colored top coat and nobby tweed suit, and the Grasshopper in an upper Chestnut street dandy of the very latest shade and cut. Being in the mood of feeling finer and finer, he evidently had not been exposed to the rigors of the past winter, with its attendant mania for a heavy overcoat. They will make a pair of odds on favorites.

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was inflammation of the bowels. As a 2-year-old Ralph Wilkes was purchased by Colonel Thayer for \$35,000 and his estimated value before he died was \$150,000. He stood at the head of the \$35,000 Wilkes family, and at the fastest of them all. Ralph was a chestnut and was foaled in 1889, being 6 years old. He was by Red Wilkes, the greater son of George Wilkes. His dam was Mary Mays, by Mambrino Patchen, the great full record last year. He won the Charter Oak stakes at Hartford August 29, of \$5,000, over a field of eleven starters, making the last mile in 1:10 1/2, the fastest mile ever trotted by the Charter Oak stakes. His defeat last year in the Transylvania stakes was due more to the incompetency of the starting gate than to any fault of his own. He was scoring for an hour and twenty minutes.

Strathmore, one of the few remaining sons of Hambleton 10, died last week. He was foaled in 1866 and leaves a grand list of performing sons and daughters to keep fresh his memory.

At Kansas City, Mo., last week Hodge Dobb said he intended to drive the horses of his stable in all their races this week.

Shadefield owned 2-15 1/2, Egerline 2:16 1/2, and Eventine 2:29 1/2, have arrived at their new home at Wabash, Ind.

The Omaha Driving Park association must get to work on their track at once and keep at it until finished if they expect to get in any thing like a respectable condition before the state fair opens. It is a proverb that a good track will bring good horses.

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the firm of Spang, Chaffant & Co., which was the first to use natural gas for fuel, has gone